

April 2023

NOAA Announces \$562 Million for Coastal Resilience and Habitat Restoration



This month, NOAA announced \$562 million in recommended funding for nearly 150 projects across 30 coastal and Great Lakes states and territories to make communities and the economy more resilient to climate change. The awards are made under NOAA's Climate-Ready Coasts Initiative and are funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and bolstered by the Inflation Reduction Act.

[See information on the natural infrastructure projects recommended for funding by state](#)

As a component of this funding, **Sea Grant announced \$27 million in projects** that will address the prevention and removal of debris in marine and Great Lakes environments throughout the U.S. Using Sea Grant's partnered approach to bring science together with communities for solutions that work, the projects will support transformational research and the creation of local coalitions to address urgent marine debris prevention and removal needs.

[Read about Sea Grant's marine debris prevention and removal projects](#)

Connecticut Sea Grant Expert, Kelp Farmer Interviewed for NBC Today Show

Adding farmed seafood to your plate is a great way to go green! This Earth Week, Al Roker and NBC's Today show profiled aquaculture, or seafood farming, as part of their climate solution coverage. NBC weatherman Roker, who was named a NOAA emissary, interviewed Anoushka Concepcion, Connecticut Sea Grant associate extension educator, and Copsps Island Oysters owner Norm Bloom for the segment.



[See the clip on seaweed aquaculture](#)



Boxes on the Coast

Georgia Sea Grant educators have maintained a bird-nest box trail on the Skidaway Island Marine Science Campus for more than a decade. In 2019, they established a more robust community science effort with the goal of engaging volunteers in scientific research and increasing awareness of bird populations on the island. The data they collect is submitted to a nationwide nest-monitoring program designed to track trends in the reproductive biology of birds.

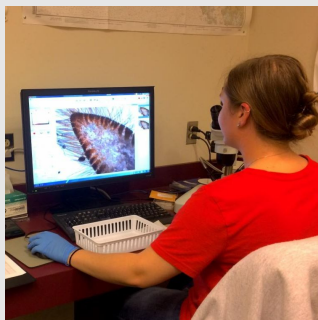
[Continue reading about the project](#)

[Find more #SeaGrantCommSci highlights for Citizen Science Month](#)

Interactive StoryMap Highlights Research from Sea Grant American Lobster Initiative

A new web-based StoryMap highlights research being conducted by scientists into the reproduction of the American lobster. The scientific studies and the work to communicate about them are part of Sea Grant's American Lobster Initiative. This product is the first in a series produced by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant staff.

[Check out the Research into American Lobster Reproduction StoryMap](#)



Get to Know the National Sea Grant Law Center

Ambulance chaser. Ruthless. Heartless. Greedy. Lawyers tend to be seen as villains, but the daily work of most lawyers is a far cry from what we see on television. On International Be Kind to Lawyers Day this month, we took a moment to recognize the work of one of the most unique programs in the Sea Grant Network - the National Sea Grant Law Center.

[Learn about the National Sea Grant Law Center's work](#)

Florida Sea Grant Supports Research Into Caribbean Sea Urchin Die-offs

The long-spined sea urchin is an important species that helps keep coral reefs healthy. In early 2022, long-spined sea urchins in St. Thomas began to quickly die in large numbers. Scientists rushed in to find the cause and discovered that a microscopic parasite is responsible. This discovery is important for future conservation and restoration efforts. Florida Sea Grant was a partner in this research, supported by rapid response funds from the National Sea Grant Office.

[Continue reading about the discovery](#)



California Sea Grant Launches Inclusive Research Program for Underrepresented Undergraduates

A new California Sea Grant program, Pathways to Inclusive Research Training, will provide research opportunities in marine and coastal science to California undergraduate students from underrepresented groups. For the 2023 grant cycle, eight projects were selected and will collectively receive up to \$600,000 in Sea Grant funding. It is hoped that the program will increase retention in STEM of diverse groups and cultivate potential future leaders in coastal science.



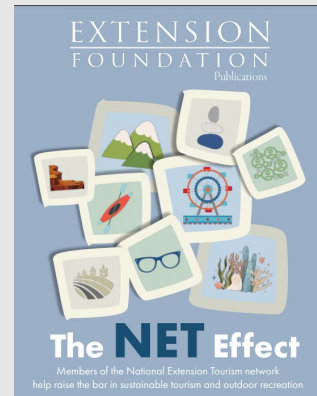
[See more about the program](#)

Tourism Publication Highlights Sea Grant Extension

A recent publication from The Extension Foundation features the work of several Sea Grant professionals who are engaged with the National Extension Tourism network. The primary goal of the publication is to provide examples of the innovative ways in which Extension and Sea Grant professionals are helping communities. See highlights from Sea Grant programs in Oregon, Georgia and South Carolina.

[View the publication](#)

[Learn about the 2023 National Extension Tourism Conference, to be hosted by Wisconsin Sea Grant in September!](#)



Maine Sea Grant Produces Art Series Inspired by Seaweed

Maine Sea Grant worked in collaboration with Maine-based artist John Ewen to create 12 pieces of art highlighting seaweeds common to Maine's coastal waters. Throughout the next year, Maine Sea Grant will feature one seaweed a month via social media platforms.

[Read about Ewen's inspirations and process for his art in this Q&A](#)

[Maine Sea Grant also hosted the National Seaweed Symposium this month to advance innovation, emerging research, and collaboration in the domestic seaweed sector](#)

Join Sea Grant at CERF 2023 Conference

Sea Grant will be leading a number of sessions during the CERF 2023 Biennial Conference, "Resilience and Recovery", in Portland, Oregon in November 2023. We invite submissions of abstracts for oral or poster presentations now through **May 10, 2023**. Sea Grant-led sessions include:

- Artistic pathways to scientific understanding
- Building resilience in communities, programs, and the workforce through inclusion
- Case studies on inclusive opportunities
- Community engagement initiatives for increased coastal resilience
- Growing a diverse estuarine research and management workforce, and
- Weaving traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and coastal science for management application.

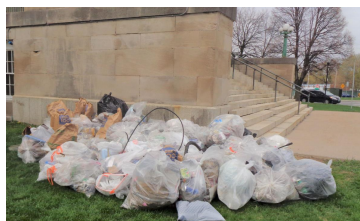
[Learn more about CERF and the 2023 conference](#)



In Pictures: April 2023



From Ohio to Vermont, take a look at how Ohio and Lake Champlain Sea Grant programs celebrated **Earth Day!** And, learn why [we celebrated phytoplankton](#), the tiny organisms that play a big role in our planet's ecosystems.



Washington Sea Grant Director, Russell Callender, Retires

Having served as director of Washington Sea Grant since 2018, [Dr. Russell Callender retired on April 7, 2023](#). In his time at Washington Sea Grant, Dr. Callender led the organization through structural changes and elevated program priorities, such as expanding capacity on the coast, building resilience, and diversity, equity and inclusion. Dr. Callender previously served as the Assistant Administrator of the National Ocean Service. Kate Litle will serve as Interim Director for Washington Sea Grant.

Remembering Mike Fraker

[Dr. Michael Fraker](#), Michigan Sea Grant's Research Program Manager, passed away this month due to kidney failure and complications from long-term dialysis. Dr. Fraker was a well-respected scientist and dedicated researcher, administrator, advisor, colleague, and friend. His expertise in ecological modeling contributed to improved insight and management of Great Lakes fisheries. Our thoughts are with Dr. Fraker's family, friends and colleagues.



Funding and Career Opportunities

[Sea Grant Career Opportunities](#) Sea Grant has several job openings across the country, such as Extension Educator with Connecticut Sea Grant and Water Quality Extension Specialist with New York Sea Grant.

[State Sea Grant Program Funding Opportunities](#) State Sea Grant Programs provide funding opportunities for a variety of topics within Sea Grant's strategic priorities. Programs have open requests for proposals. See [our state funding page](#) for information on the program in your state.

[Sea Grant American Lobster Research Program 2023](#) This program will support collaborative projects that address priority research needs to enhance our understanding of and address impacts to the American lobster fishery. Eligible applicants are any individual; any public or private corporation, partnership, or other association or entity; or any State, political subdivision of a State, Tribal government or agency or officer thereof. Applications due to Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. ET, **May 10, 2023**.

Connections and Partner Updates

[URI Metcalf Institute Seeks New Director](#) University of Rhode Island's Metcalf Institute seeks a dynamic new leader to implement its mission and strategic priorities and expand its stature and impacts across the globe. Metcalf Institute advances informed, inclusive public conversations about environmental issues by conducting science training for journalists, communication training for scientists, and a variety of public programs.

[NOAA Ocean Exploration Fiscal Year 2024 Funding Opportunity](#) NOAA Ocean Exploration is soliciting proposals for ocean exploration-related projects under three themes. By supporting exploration, i.e., discovery through disciplined, diverse observations, NOAA Ocean Exploration seeks to advance our basic understanding of waters under U.S. jurisdiction. The deadline for the pre-proposals, which are required, is **May 30, 2023**, at 4:59 pm ET. Full proposals are due by October 5, 2023.

[2023 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program Request for Applications](#) Approximately \$550 million is available to select approximately 11 eligible entities to become Grantmakers. Grantmakers will design competitive application and submission processes, award environmental justice subgrants, implement a tracking and reporting system, provide resources and support to communities, all in collaboration with EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights. Applications packages must be submitted before **May 31, 2023**.

[Input Requested for Updated Climate Literacy Guide](#) The United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) requests input from the public to guide an update of the 2009 "Climate Literacy: Essential Principles of Climate Science". This request for information will inform USGCRP as it updates the Guide to include current climate and social science, and a focus on justice and capacity to implement solutions. Comments should be submitted by **May 31, 2023**.

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